

am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915." As we heard Hitler say when he moved into the Holocaust period, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

By 1923, the religious and ideological persecution by the Ottoman Turks resulted in the murder of 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children and the displacement of an additional 500,000 Armenians.

The 20th century has borne witness to many acts of brutality and savagery by despotic regimes who sought to deny people human rights and religious freedoms. Examples abound, such as Stalin against the Russians, Hitler against the Jews, Mao Tse-tung against the Chinese, Pol Pot against the Cambodians, and currently Bashir against the Sudanese.

Genocide has devastating consequences for society as a whole because of the problems created by uprooting entire populations. It is bad enough to see the persecutions that we see in Tiananmen Square, where governments do not acknowledge the shooting of civilians; but when you uproot entire subgroups based on their background, as has happened in Bosnia, as Serbia was trying to do, and clearly on a massive scale in Turkey vis-a-vis the Armenians, it is tragic. The survivors become the ones who carry the memory of the suffering and the realization that their loved ones are gone. They are the ones who no longer have a home and may feel ideological and spiritual abandonment.

Part of the healing process for any victims of genocide, including Armenian survivors and families of survivors, involves acknowledgment of the atrocity and the admission of wrongdoing by those who perpetrated the persecution. It is only through acknowledgment and forgiveness that it is possible to move beyond the past.

Unfortunately, those responsible for ordering the systematic removal of the Armenians were never brought to justice, and the Armenian Genocide has become a dark moment in history, even an unacknowledged moment.

It is important that we remember this tragic event and show strong leadership by denouncing the persecution of people due to their differences in political and religious ideology. Who can visit the Holocaust Museum and not be personally touched? By establishing and continuing a discourse, we are acknowledging the tragedies of the past and remembering those awful moments in history so they will not be repeated.

As my friend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) says, history may not repeat itself but often it rhymes. Acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey will help to remove this decades-old barrier and allow greater cooperation and understanding between these two people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all those Members who have come down here tonight to recognize and make sure that regardless of what Turkey does and regardless of what this Congress does, that the American people still hear a voice on behalf of the Armenians in this country and remember the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923, as well as our thanking all the Armenian organizations who have worked so hard to keep this issue at the forefront of our minds to serve as an example of the brutality of man against man.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, each year I am deeply humbled when we gather in the United States House of Representatives to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished and the 500,000 survivors who were forcibly exiled from their ancestral homes in Ottoman Turkey during the years 1915 to 1923. Some of those survivors, Mr. Speaker, are part of my own community in Worcester, Massachusetts. I had the opportunity to meet with several of them on Sunday during a special program in the historic Armenian Church of Our Savior.

It is difficult to fathom a greater evil than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. Those who deny that a holocaust took place when there are recorded accounts of the barbarity are complicit and often perpetuate a cycle of violence. This is the injustice much of the world has committed against the Armenian people.

Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, has called denial of genocide a double killing: The denial of genocide seeks to reshape history in order to demonize the victims and rehabilitate the perpetrators and is, in effect, the final stage of genocide. Nobel laureate and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the Preface to the Encyclopedia of Genocide, which was published in 1999 by the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, writes, "It is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that was committed by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians, the first genocide of the 20th century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning signs that were being given before Hit-

ler's madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world."

And last year, Mr. Speaker, Israeli Minister of Education Yossi Sarid said publicly, "I will do everything in order that Israeli children learn and know more about the Armenian Genocide. Something happened that cannot be defined except as genocide; 1.5 million people disappeared. It was not negligence. It was deliberate."

And so scholars and eyewitnesses, Nobel laureates and Armenian survivors have spoken for 86 long years. And now we have entered the 21st century. After a long silence, governments are beginning to respond. They are beginning to acknowledge formally the Armenian Genocide. The European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the United Nations now recognize and reaffirm the Armenian Genocide as historical fact. In the last 5 years alone the parliaments of Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Russia and Sweden have passed resolutions officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Last November, Pope John Paul II issued a communique condemning the Armenian Genocide as a "prologue to horrors" that would follow in the 20th century. Earlier this year, French President Jacques Chirac signed into law a bill stating that France publicly recognizes the Armenian Genocide of 1915. And authorities in Paris have voted to erect a memorial to the genocide of the Armenian people.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, France has achieved the moral leadership that the United States Congress and the White House have failed to fulfill. Last year, for the first time, the Congress moved forward on a resolution officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide, a resolution I proudly cosponsored. Unfortunately, the politics of denial and political expediency combined to thwart that effort. Bowing to pressure from the current Turkish Government, the measure was kept from coming to the House floor.

So, we begin again this year. In the House, I am an original cosponsor of a new resolution to have the United States officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Thirty of our States, including Massachusetts, have passed resolutions officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide. We have a new President, who pledged during his campaign that he would officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. I have joined with over 100 of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, in sending a letter to President Bush asking that he honor his pledge. I believe in my heart that we can build on the progress made last year and perhaps this year, 2001, will be seen as the year when Congress finally debated and approved this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to represent a district that includes a vibrant Armenian American community. They have educated the broader

Worcester community and indeed all of Massachusetts about the history and heritage of Armenian Americans, for out of one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century came this community, made up of survivors of the genocide and the families and children of survivors. They have created houses of worship, community centers, neighborhood activists and dedicated workers in every profession. They are the living legacy. The Armenian nation survives in Europe, and the heritage of Armenia thrives in America.

I will work with my colleagues to make sure that the United States will officially recognize the Armenian Genocide and that all of our children will learn this history and understand why it is part of America's history and culture.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, as have many of my colleagues, to commemorate and affirm the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of the 20th century.

□ 2000

We have heard this repeated, and I think it is worth repeating because it is important that it is indelibly implanted in our minds. April 24, 1915, is remembered and solemnly commemorated each year by the Armenian community and people of conscience throughout the world. On that day, a group of Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople, taken to the interior of Turkey and murdered. In the 8 years that followed, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered and 500,000 were deported because of the Ottoman Empire's decision to attempt to eliminate the Armenian people living under their rule.

Through our bipartisan congressional efforts, we have and we must continue to acknowledge and to remember the killing and the suffering inflicted on the Armenian people during those 8 years at the beginning of the last century. Real people died and the results were and are still shocking.

The Armenian genocide is a historical fact. There is a nonpartisan academic consensus that between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians perished at the hands of the crumbling Ottoman Empire. I deeply regretted the decision made by this body last year not to consider House Resolution 596, legislation recognizing the Armenian genocide. If we in the Congress continue to react with silence regarding these events and are unwilling to stand up and publicly condemn these atrocities, we effectively give our approval to abuses of power such as the Armenian genocide.

We must let the truth about these events be known and continue to speak out against all instances of inhumanity against one another. To this day it is still denied by the Turkish Government, just as the Nazis 2 decades later denied the Holocaust. Both of these atrocities could have been prevented or at least mitigated if the public had been aware of them. Sadly, it was only after the world learned of the Holocaust and the depths to which human beings could sink in their treatment of each other that the massacre of the Armenian population of Turkey gained attention as genocide.

Responding to this horror, governmental bodies throughout the world have passed resolutions and declarations affirming the Armenian genocide, including Canada, Argentina, Belgium, Lebanon, Vatican City, Uruguay, the European Parliament, the Russian Duma, the Greek Parliament, the Swedish Parliament and the French National Senate.

Additionally, 27 States, more than half, have also passed resolutions condemning the Armenian genocide. I am very pleased that on April 9 of this year my own State of Maryland enacted the Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. I, as had some others, had written to members of the Maryland Assembly urging their support of the resolution. I believe this measure will help educate others about this crime against humanity and send an appropriate message to the thousands of Maryland residents of Armenian descent who have been profoundly and personally affected by the Armenian genocide and who have made tremendous contributions to our State in the areas of business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts.

We salute the proud people of Armenian who spent 70 years fighting Stalinist domination and who have finally, in the past decade, achieved freedom. However, these freedoms must never allow them or us to forget the hardships suffered by their ancestors. Our universal respect for human rights must instill in all of us the continued condemnation and acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide, one of history's darkest chapters of the 20th century.

THE PRESIDENT HAD IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO OPEN TRADE MUST BE MATCHED BY A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, this morning constituents of our Ninth District of Ohio woke up to reports of more job cuts at our local Jeep plant. The Toledo Blade ran two headlines.

One reads, "Jeep reductions: Firm warns up to 2,035 Toledo jobs to be cut." The second headline read, "Expanded PT Cruiser Output Bypasses City of Toledo for Mexico."

Welcome to post-NAFTA America. Here we have a company shifting production from the United States at the expense of our workers. Make no mistake, these are excellent jobs we are talking about. These are not minimum-wage jobs with no benefits. These are not low-tech jobs. They are the type of jobs that any community in America would fight for. These are middle-class jobs. That is what Toledo and the State of Ohio did, in fact. They went out and fought for the Jeep jobs. The taxpayers invested hundreds of millions of dollars to keep those jobs in Ohio and in the United States, and now Chrysler is cutting 2,000 jobs in Toledo at the same time as it is adding production lines in Mexico to make the popular PT Cruiser.

Now President Bush wants to expand NAFTA, he tells us. Is this the promise of NAFTA, 2,000 more families out of work and good jobs in our country? Is this what the future looks like under a hemispheric NAFTA known as Free Trade of the Americas, FTAA? Is this what you get with Fast Track?

President Bush went to Quebec City last week to push for NAFTA's expansion to the free trade of the Americas. He made some interesting claims about what his version of free trade envisions. There was some talk about labor rights and environmental standards and democracy. That sounds well and good, but we need to see concrete action to back up the rhetoric.

In Quebec City, President Bush said it is clear to me that ours is a hemisphere united by freedom. How about the freedom of workers to earn a living wage and to know that they are protected against workplace injury and guaranteed the right to organize the worth of their labor? How about the freedom for families to know what is in their food? How about the freedom of a mother on the border in Mexico knowing that the water is safe to drink and the air fit to breathe? How about the freedom for Members of Congress to have access to all the working documents and drafts of these agreements, not only the multinational giants that helped to negotiate the agreement that we are likely to consider?

In Quebec City, President Bush said, "Our commitment to open trade must be matched by a strong commitment to protecting our environment and improving labor standards." But then he did a pirouette and he said, "We should not allow labor and environmental codicils to destroy the spirit of free trade."

He had it right the first time.

Those of us on the other side of the argument have been saying for years that these trade agreements should give individuals the same rights as multinational corporations. The President was wrong when he said labor and